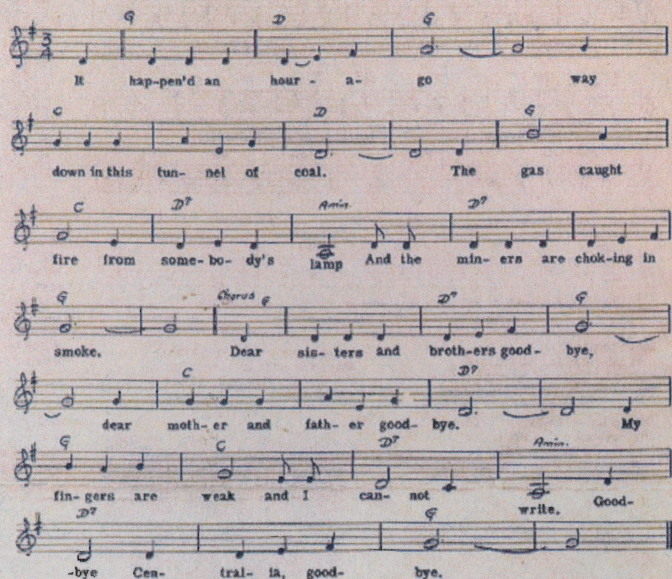


149 THE DYING MINER

I made this song up to the old tune, "Give Me Three Grains Of Corn, Mother," on account of it is easy to sing (to these words). I got the idea for writing these words as I turned into the papers and read some of the words to the letters the trapped miners wrote to their families and friends. - WOODY GUTHRIE



It looks like the end for me
And all of my buddies I see
We're all writing letters
To the children we love,
Please carry our word to our wives.

We found a little place in the air
We crawled and we drag ourselves here
But the smoke is bad and the
Fumes coming in,
And the gas is burning my eyes.

Forgive me for things I done wrong
I love you lots more than you know
When the night whistle blows and
I don't come home
Do all that you can to help Mom.

I can hear the moans and the groans
Of more than a hundred good men
Just work and fight and try to see
That this never happens again.

My eyes are blinded with fumes
But it sounds like the men are all gone
Except Joe Ballastini, Fred Gutzler,
And Joy,
Trapped down in this hell hole of fire.

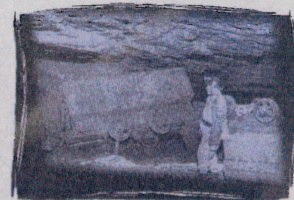
Please name our new baby Joe
So he'll grow up like big Joe
He'll work and he'll fight to fix up
The mines,
So fires can't kill daddies no more.

The Dying Miner, one of three songs by Woody Guthrie published in the May, 1947 issue of People's Songs, memorializing the 1947 mine disaster at Centralia, Illinois.




One man had scrawled: "It looks like the end for me. I love you honey more than life itself. You are the sweetest wife in the world. Goodbye, Honey and Dickey." Another note was addressed to two boys: "Be good boys. Please your father. O Lord help me." Some had been jotted down at intervals: "I am fine at 5:30—is in bad shape, going on and moaning. Tell— I forgive her. Everyone going." Another read: "My dear wife: Goodbye. Name the baby Joe so you will have a Joe. Love, all. Dad."

~MARCH 25, 2009 - 3:00 P.M. A MONUMENT DEDICATED TO THE 111 MEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE NO. 5 MINE DISASTER ~ CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS ON MARCH 25, 1947~



CENTRALIA # 5 COAL MINE MONUMENT DEDICATION SERVICE

 Presentation of Colors

American Legion Post # 446 and V.F.W. Post # 2055

Welcoming Remarks by

Margaret Loomis (Centralia Area Historical Museum)

Invocation by

Pastor Mark Girardin (Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Centralia)

Special Remarks by

Steve Earle Intl Vice President-Dist 12 United Mine Workers of America

Scripture Reading by

Pastor Don Smith (New Testament Baptist Church)

Scripture Reading by

Father Justin Olisaemeka (St. Mary Catholic Church)

Song ~ "The Dying Miner" written by Woody Guthrie

Memorial Chiming of Bells by

Centralia, Central City, and Wamac area churches.

Reading of Coal Miner's names by

Centralia, Central City, and Wamac Mayors or Associates.

"The Lord's Prayer" by

Sandra Becker (granddaughter of Joe Bryant, Sr.) and Gary Williams

Mayoral Proclamation by

Mayor Jackie "Butch" Mathus, Mayor Becky Ault and

Mayor-Elect John Johnston.


Closing Remarks by

Mayor Jackie "Butch" Mathus

Benediction by

Pastor Allan Mason (First Christian Church ~ Centralia)

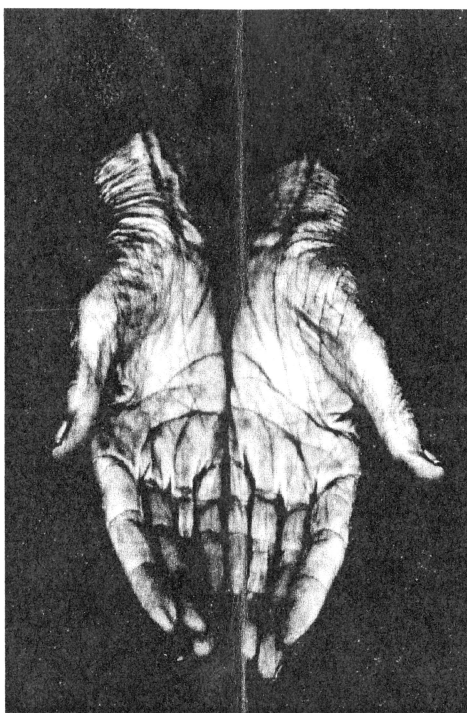
Postlude ~ "Amazing Grace" Rendered by Celtic Pipers

 Final Salute and Taps by American Legion and V.F.W.

"THE COAL MINERS PRAYER"

**EACH DAWN AS WE RISE, LORD WE KNOW
ALL TO WELL, WE FACE ONLY ONE THING - A
PIT FILLED WITH HELL. TO SCRATCH OUT A
LIVING THE BEST THAT WE CAN, BUT DEEP
IN THE HEART, LIES THE SOUL OF A MAN.
WITH BLACK COVERED FACES, AND HARD
CALLOUSED HANDS, WE WORK THE DARK
TUNNELS, UNABLE TO STAND. TO LABOUR
AND TOIL AS WE HARVEST THE COALS, WE
SILENTLY PRAY "LORD PLEASE HARVEST
OUR SOULS".**

W. CALVERT



*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Joe Altadonna
Rodrigo Alvarez
Joe Ballantini
Pietro Ballantini
Alvin M. Barnes
Martin Basola
Nick Basola
Domenick Beneventi
Harry A. Berger
Celso Biagi
Harold Jack Bryant
Joe Bryant
Edward Bude
Otto Buehne
Raymond C. Buehne
Tom Bush
John Busse
Charles Cagle
Theodore V. Carriax
Arthur H. Carter
Joseph Cerutti
Domenic Cervi
Anton Chiarottino
Paul Comper
Clifford Copple
Frank Copple
Leo R. Dehn
Eugene Erwin
George Evans
Frank Famera
Andrew Farley
Walter H. Fetgatter
John Figiellk
William F. Fortmeyer
Ray Fouts
Odia Lee Francis
Luther Frazier Martin Freeman, Sr.
Martin P. Freeman, Jr.
Albert Friend
Bruno Gaertner
Angelo Gallassini
Tony Giovanini
John Grotti
Louis Grotti
Adolph Gutzler
Fred W. Gutzler
John H. Gutzler
John W. Gutzler
Henry Hoeinghaus
Edward Hofstetter
Gustave Hohman
Ned L. Jackson
Warrie L. Jackson
Henry Knicker
Philip Knight

Joseph Koch, Sr.
Charles Kraus
Fred Laughhunn
Domenico Lenzini
Pete Lenzini
Miles McCollum
Charles McGreavey
Clarence McGreavey
John Mazeka
William Mentler
Fred Moore
Elmer G. Moss
Henry W. Niepoetter
Charles Oestreich
George Panceroff
Frank Paulauskis
John Pawlisa
Charles L. Peart
Joseph H. Peiler
Alva F. Petrea
Walter Pelker
Peter Piasse
Julius Piazzi
Louis Piazzi
John Pick, Sr.
John Placek
Alfredo Pollacci
George Powell
Richard Privette
Glenn Purcell
Nick Reggo
Jacob W. Rethard
Forrest Rhodes
Carl Rohde
Daniel C. Sanders
Jacob Schmidt
Archie Schofield
Lee Gerard Shaw
Anton Skrobol
Clarence Smith
Ray O. Smith
Andrew Spinner
Joseph Spinner
Alfred Stevens
H.W. Sundermeyer
James Tabor
Anthony Tickus
Stanley Tickus
Anton Tillman
Emmett Uhls
Dude Vancil, Sr.
Joe Vancil, Sr.
Mark L. Watson
Joe Zinkus
Max Zonarini

In Memory of the 111 Coal Miners,
This Dedication Program is courtesy of
Styninger-Pacey Funeral Home
Centralia, Illinois